



Observation

From your observations, what answers to these questions can you find? Ask some of these to people you meet. As you do, remember that there's probably not one answer. What people will say about themselves may not be what you observe— or what others say. So, listen to people, *and* keep your eyes open and your mind engaged.

Family and relationships:

Look:

- What roles do men and women play in public?
- What social rituals do you see?
- What do family relationships look like in public?
- What differences do you notice in social protocols in different neighborhoods or people who appear to be from different communities?

Listen (ask someone):

- What work is socially acceptable for men? What is not acceptable for men?
- What work is socially acceptable for women? What is not acceptable for women?
- What rituals do family members perform for others?
- What is important for a child to learn from his/her mother? Father? Other relatives?
- What do men, women, and children need to do to make their families happy?
- Who is part of your community?

Spirituality and religion:

Look:

- What religious objects do you see?
- What religious rituals do you see?
- Who is involved?

Listen (ask someone):

- Are there distinctions between public and private spirituality? Religious practices?
- What are the barriers that keep people from knowing God?
- What does one have to do to have favor with God?
- What happens after people die?

Values:

Look:

- What about this culture's dominant religious practice appeals to you?
- What social evils do you see?
- What about this way of life looks appealing to you?
- What people significant to this culture's history are seen and mentioned? What seems to be important about them?
- Why do you think people do ____? Say____? Wear____?
- Based on what you see, what do you think these people would say about their life purpose?



Listen (ask someone):

- What would the “ideal world” look like?
- What about your faith or religious tradition appeals to people outside your religion? To women? To men?
- What social evils do you see or experience? What do you think should be done about those?
- What's the best part of your life? What would you like visitors to understand about life here?
- What's the most important advice anyone has given to you?

View of foreigners:

Look:

- What do you think Westerners could learn from this culture?
- When Westerners do _____ or say _____ or wear _____? What do you think it communicates?
- What might other people think of me by how I dress, act, talk?

Listen (ask someone):

- What do you think Westerners could learn from your culture?
- When Westerners do _____ or say _____ or wear _____? What does it communicate?